

FOUR GENERATIONS OF Dedication

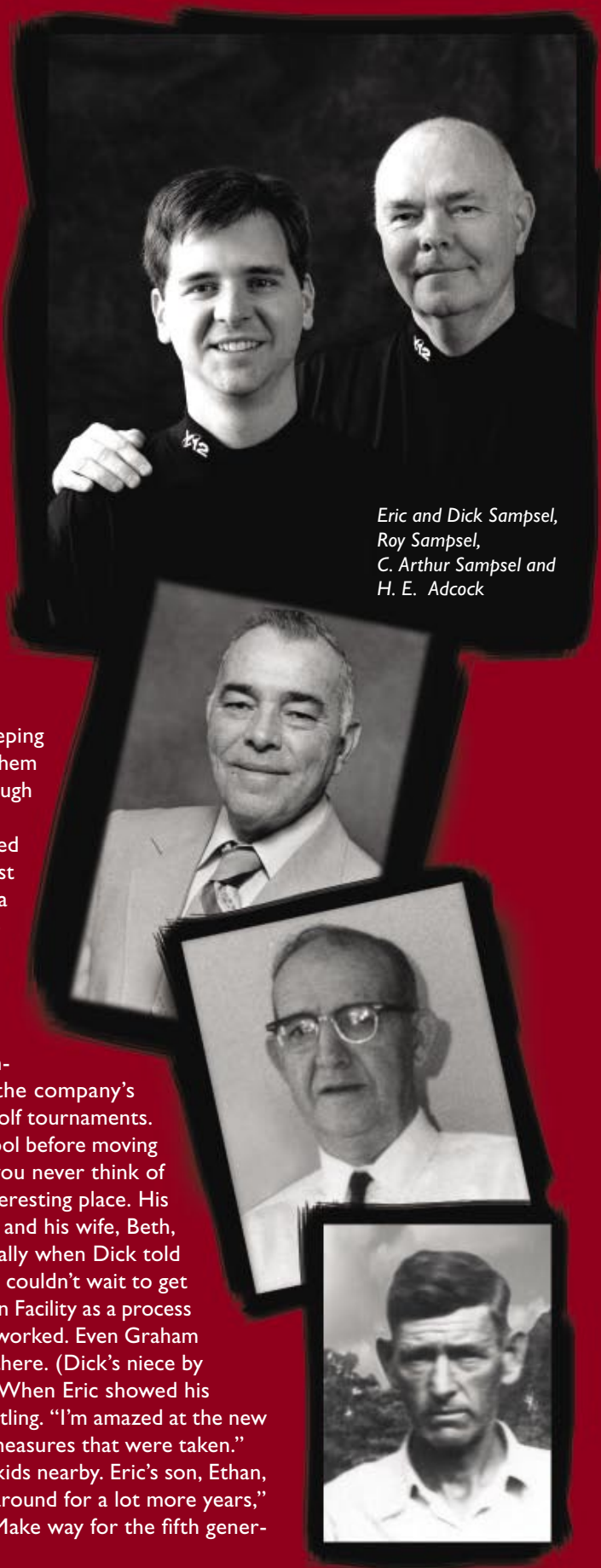
"Like father, like son" takes on a new meaning with the Sampsel family. A Sampsel has been on site pretty much "since they built the fence," said facilities specialist Dick Sampsel of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services, a nearly 30-year veteran of Y-12.

His son, Eric, is the fourth generation to work at the plant. A Y-12 co-op student while obtaining his bachelor's degree from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Eric followed familiar footsteps in coming to Y-12 after getting his master's degree and spending time with a firm in Atlanta. His great-grandfathers, C. Arthur Sampsel and H. E. Adcock, were security guards from 1943 to 1945, and his grandfather, Roy Sampsel, was a plant electrician from 1949 to 1983. "I grew up hearing stories about the plant," said Eric. So did his father. Dick remembers Arthur and H. E. talking about the "bitter cold" of perimeter roads and buildings that guards circled continuously. Keeping the natives at bay was also a chore when "folks with some alcohol in them would try to find out what's going on over the hill." They'd drive through the barricades smack into the police blotter.

Dick's father Roy joined Y-12 after World War II, having completed six years of Navy service. At work, Roy occasionally caught snakes just to see what kind they were. One evening near Biology he noticed "a huge snake," of a kind he'd never seen. He caught it and carted it to the Plant Shift Superintendent's office, which barred its entrance. Roy said he thought it might belong to a scientist. Once located, the researcher was thankful the very expensive, nonpoisonous escapee was nabbed. Roy was "Snake" ever after.

Dick has "real fond memories" of childhood days when Y-12 sponsored family activities year-round, from winter bingo parties to the company's summer picnic ("they'd rent Big Ridge State Park") and fishing and golf tournaments. Dick graduated from UT and taught vocational education in high school before moving to Y-12. He never intended to stay so long: "When you're young, you never think of being somewhere 30 years." To Eric, Y-12 always seemed like an interesting place. His "really good co-op experience" through UT confirmed it. When he and his wife, Beth, learned she was pregnant, they were ready to leave Atlanta, especially when Dick told him the plant was recruiting. "They were like homing pigeons. They couldn't wait to get back to East Tennessee." Eric now works in the new Oxide Conversion Facility as a process engineer, in the same building where both his father and grandfather worked. Even Graham Cowan, husband to Eric's sister, Sherrie, is an electrical apprentice there. (Dick's niece by marriage, Scarlett Sampsel, works in National Security Programs.) When Eric showed his father the OCF's new system, the improvements Dick saw were startling. "I'm amazed at the new technology installed for better controls—the safer environmental measures that were taken."

Dick and his wife, Dorothy, enjoy having Eric, Beth and the grandkids nearby. Eric's son, Ethan, is almost 2 and daughter, Elana, debuted in August. "I hope Y-12 is around for a lot more years," said Dick. "Maybe they'll be interested in working here someday." Make way for the fifth generation of Sampsels.



*Eric and Dick Sampsel,
Roy Sampsel,
C. Arthur Sampsel and
H. E. Adcock*